

Syllabus

SCS 500 Bible History: Hebrew Scriptures

Course Overview

Course Instructor

Name	Reverend Karen Epps
Office Hours	By appointment
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Course Description

Understanding the origins and historical context of the Hebrew Scripture (commonly known as “The Old Testament”) is necessary for meaningful spiritual education in ministry. Students will study an overview of the history of the Israelite people. Writings of the Hebrew Scripture are analyzed as an expression of the religious life, thought and practice of ancient Israel and a foundational and influential document of Western civilization. This involves individual reading, research, and reflection; group sharing and study, and personal and professional application of what is discovered through this process.

Course Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, learners will be able to:

1. Analyze key parallels between the cultural and religious life of the ancient Israelites and that of other peoples of the Ancient Near East.
2. Explain the differences between the major divisions within the Hebrew Bible and the sources behind their composition.
3. Examine significant events in the development of ancient Israel’s history up to the Inter-testament period.
4. Assess the basic religious content/teachings found in the texts of the Torah, Prophetic Writings, and Wisdom Literature.
5. Evaluate the similarities and differences in authorship and audience among the variety of literature within the writings of the Hebrew Bible.
6. Identify biblical patterns, archetypes, and/or scenarios showing up in current events, in society, and/or in life; and relate them to practical action in ministry.

Required Text

- Collins, John J. ***Introduction to the Hebrew Bible: 3rd Edition***. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2018.
- ***The New Oxford Annotated Bible, New Revised Standard Version with the Apocrypha***. Oxford University Press, 5th edition, 2018 (Note: Less expensive used or older versions can be found online.)
- ***The New Interpreter's Study Bible, New Revised Standard Version with the Apocrypha***. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2003. (Note: Less expensive used or older versions can be found online.)

Recommended Text

- Finkelstein, Israel, and Neil Asher Silberman. ***The Bible Unearthed: Archeology's New Vision of Ancient Israel and the Origin of Sacred Texts.*** New York: Free Press, 2002.
- Pritchard, James B. ***The Ancient Near East: An Anthology of Texts and Pictures***. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2011. (Note: You can also get a less expensive 2-volume older version. The relevant references to this course can be found in Volume I.)

Optional Online Resource

Professor Christine Hays Yale Courses

- Video Lecture Series: (this link will guide you to the entire series of 24 lectures)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mo-YL-lv3RY&list=PLh9mgdi4rNeyuvTEbD-Ei0JdMUujXfyWi&index=2&t=0s>

Live Collaborate Class Sessions

All times Central Time (CT) Zone

Note: Collaborate Sessions thru November 15 are for work completed the week prior (example: September 20 session is for Module 1 assignments etc.)

September 2021

1. Monday, September 13 – 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. CT
2. Monday, September 20 - 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. CT
3. Monday, September 27 – 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. CT

October 2021

4. Monday, October 4 – 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. CT
5. Monday, October 11 – 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. CT
6. Monday, October 18 – 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. CT
7. Monday, October 25 – 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. CT

November 2021

8. Monday, November 1– 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. CT
9. Monday, November 8 – 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. CT
10. Monday, November 15 – 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. CT